



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# PRESS RELEASE

**Police Department**  
**SERGIO G. DIAZ**  
**Chief of Police**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Sergeant Aaron Perkins  
East NPC Investigations  
[aperkins@riversideca.gov](mailto:aperkins@riversideca.gov)  
(951)826-5362

## **HOLIDAY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM NETS TWO ARRESTS**

RIVERSIDE, CA – Two people were arrested on Thursday, November 16, 2017, for a variety of crimes including identity theft, possession of stolen property, check fraud, possession of dangerous drugs, and an outstanding felony warrant for an unrelated case. The subjects were arrested by a team of officers and detectives from the East Neighborhood Policing Center (NPC) during an operation known as the “Holiday Enforcement Program,” or HEP.

On Thursday afternoon, officers and detectives assigned to the East NPC began a surveillance of two subjects in a vehicle who they suspected were casing the parking lots and businesses in and around the Hobby Lobby and Walmart stores in the Canyon Springs shopping center in Riverside. An enforcement stop was conducted and a records check revealed the driver had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The female passenger was found to be in possession of personal checks which were stolen over the course of several weeks in numerous vehicle burglaries and mail thefts in seven Inland Empire cities. She also had a quantity of methamphetamine and instruments used to facilitate identity theft. Investigators believe these subjects came to this Walmart to purchase items using the stolen checks and fake identities.

Mark Baca, 30-years-old of Moreno Valley, was arrested and booked into jail for an outstanding felony warrant for financial elder abuse.



Elicia Ramos, 32-years-old of Moreno Valley, was arrested and booked into jail for identity theft, check fraud, forgery, possession of stolen property, and possession of methamphetamine.

The Holiday Enforcement Program is a proactive and strategic approach to combat the traditional rise in property crimes in and around large retail locations within the city of Riverside. East NPC detectives and officers participate annually in the HEP program after careful analysis of crime types, locations, and times of occurrence. The program began this week and will continue through the end of the calendar year.

Anyone with information on this investigation is asked to contact East NPC Officer Jared O'Farrell at (951) 826-5167, Detective Theresa Sivula at (951) 826-5396, or Detective Shawn DeGruy at (951) 826-5376.

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